

Seattle Hall Pass Episode 40 Show Notes



May 8, 2024 School Board Meeting - There Is Not a List, Part 2: 20 Schools to Close

Christie Robertson & Jane Tunks Demel discuss the Seattle School Board Meeting of May 8, 2024, wherein a plan to close 20 elementary schools was loosely agreed to.

Meeting basics

- Agenda - [May 8, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting - Seattle Public Schools](#)
- Recording - [YouTube Seattle Schools Board Meeting May 8, 2024](#)

Important Slides from Presentation

Benefits of Well-Resourced Schools

	515 students	468 students	230 students	217 students	165 students
Multiple Teachers per Grade Level	3-5 teachers per grade level	3-4 teachers per grade level	1-2 teachers per grade level	1-2 teachers per grade level	1-2 teachers per grade level
Stable Support Staff	0.5 AP and 1.0 office assistant	0.5 AP and 1.0 office assistant	No AP and 0.5 office assistant	No AP and 0.5 office assistant	No AP and 0.5 office assistant
	Nurse 2 days per week	Nurse 2 days per week	Nurse 1 day per week	Nurse 1 day per week	Nurse 1 day per week
Inclusive Learning	3 special education intensive service classrooms	3 special education intensive service classrooms	No special education intensive service classrooms	No special education intensive service classrooms	1 special education intensive service classroom
Social Emotional Learning Support	1.0 counselor/social worker	1.0 counselor/social worker	0.5 counselor/social worker	0.5 counselor/social worker	0.5 counselor/social worker
Art, Music, PE	Full time teachers in art, music, and PE	Full time teachers in art, music, and PE	Full time PE teacher, 0.5 art teacher, 0 music teachers	Full time PE teacher, 0.5 art teacher, 0 music teachers	Full time PE teacher, 0.5 art teacher, 0 music teachers

Transition to a System of Well-Resourced Elementary Schools

Approximately 23,000 K-5 students in 2023-24

- Currently served in more than 70 sites
- Current site utilization: 65%

Transition to a Well-Resourced System for 2025-26

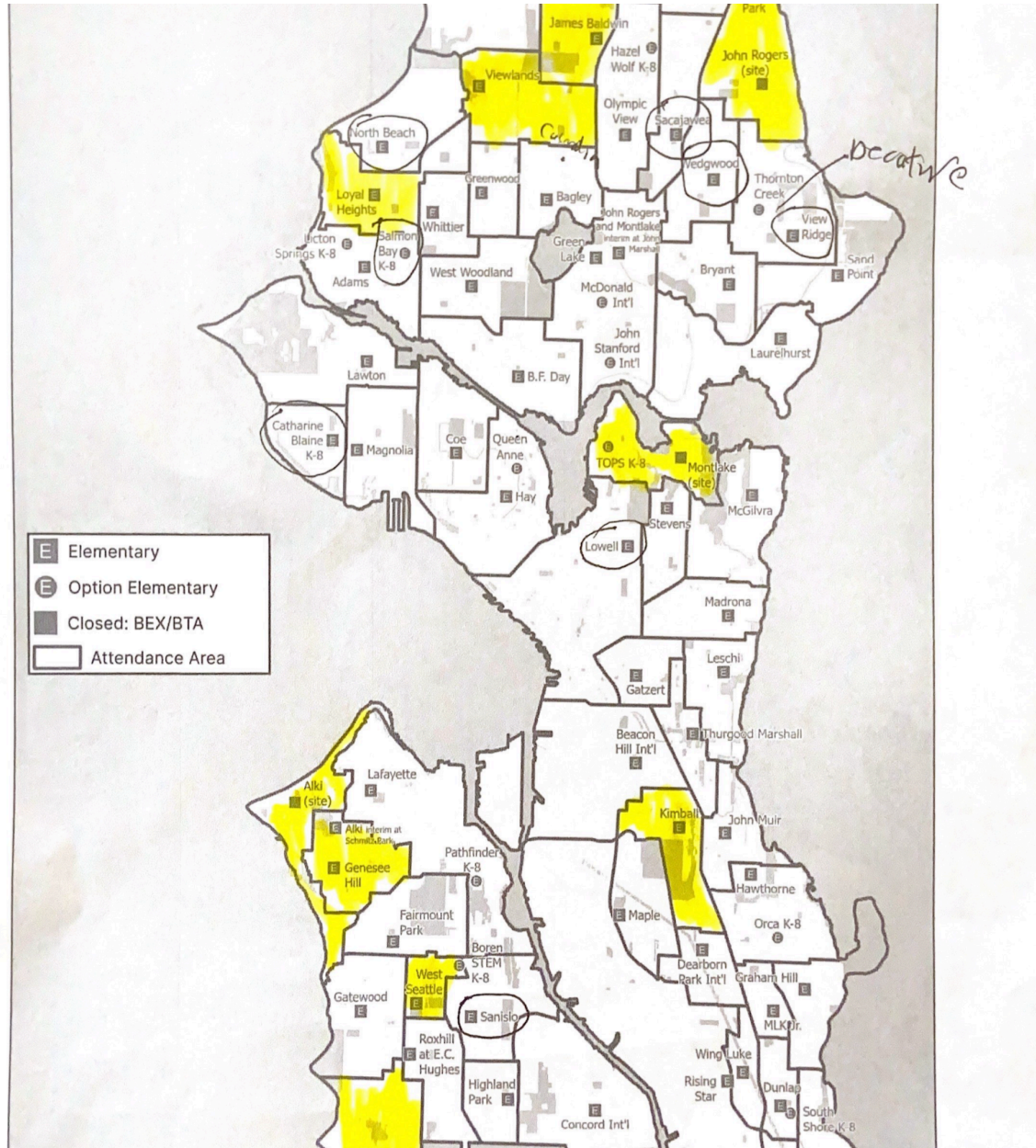
- K-5 students would be better accommodated in approximately 50 sites evenly distributed, with 10 per region
- Projected site utilization: 85% (comparable to middle and high schools)



Jane's Map

Yellow = large school rebuilds.

Circles = small schools in poor quality buildings nearby.



Collective Bargaining Agreement

- [SEA Collective Bargaining Agreement - Seattle Public Schools](#), 2022-25

Articles about Seattle's School Closures

- [As Seattle weighs school closures, parents demand answers](#), Seattle Times, 2024

- [Seattle Schools OKs proposal that could close 20 elementary schools](#), Seattle Times, 2024
- [20 Seattle elementary schools could be closed due to budget crisis](#), KUOW, 2024
- [Closing schools, Seattle? Don't forget what happened last time](#), Seattle Times OpEd, 2024
- [Elementary school closures could be on the way for SPS families](#), KUOW Soundside, 2024
- [Week in Review: Seattle Public Schools, protests, and asylum seekers](#), KUOW, 2024

Articles and Reports on Other Districts' School Closures

Multiple Districts

- Review - [Closing Public Schools in Philadelphia: Lessons from Six Urban Districts](#), Pew Charitable Trust, 2011
- Study - [Doing educational equity right: School closures](#), Fordham Institute, 2024
- Article [There's Lots at Stake for Districts & Kids When Underenrolled Schools Stay Open – The 74](#), 2023
- [3 strategies districts should consider when weighing school closures | K-12 Dive](#), 2023

Chicago

- Report - [School Closings in Chicago](#), University of Chicago, 2018
 - Article - [Study: After mass school closings, impacted students lagged academically - The Chicago Reporter](#), 2018
- Article - [Chicago promised students would do better after closing 50 schools. That didn't happen.](#), Chicago Sun-Times, 2023
- Article - [CPS school closures of 2013 still felt a decade later | Crain's Chicago Business](#), 2023
- Study - [School Closures Disproportionately Affect Disadvantaged Communities - Center for Poverty and Inequality Research](#) UC Davis, 2021

San Antonio

- Report, San Antonio - [Equity Audit of San Antonio Independent School District's \(SAISD\) Rightsizing Process](#), San Antonio Independent School District, 2023

1990 Cresap Report

- SPS archives
 - [Cresap Report](#), 1990
 - [Report to the Legislature](#), 1990
 - [Cresap Report Response](#), 1991
 - [Cresap Update](#), 1993
- Seattle Times articles/OpEds
 - By Senator Phil Talmadge “[Cresap Report -- Recommendations Would Destabilize School District | The Seattle Times](#)”
 - By Paula Block - “[Report Card -- William Kendrick - Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools](#)”
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- [Failed bill to change SPS Board elections based on report](#)

Related Bills and Laws

- Initiative Measure No. 1240, approved November 6, 2012, giving charter schools right of first refusal to purchase abandoned public school buildings
 - [RCW 28A.710.230 Facilities—State funding for common school construction.](#)
- Law about Enrichment Levies
 - [RCW 84.52.0531 Enrichment levies by school districts—Maximum dollar amount—Enrichment levy expenditure plan approval—Rules—Deposit of funds.](#)

Regionalization bill that didn't pass [SB 5956 As of February 2, 2024](#)

Related Seattle Hall Pass Episodes

- [E8 - There Is Not a List!](#)
- [E11 - The Financial Policy, feat. Director Song](#)
- [E14 - The Financial Policy & Exit Interview with Chandra Hampson](#)

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